



January 9, 2006

46 months in prison for two bank robberies

A federal judge has sentenced **Michael J. Capaldi**, 21, of Cranston, to 46 months in federal prison for his role in two bank robberies last year.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed on January 6 in U.S. District Court, Providence. In August, Judge Smith sentenced a codefendant, **John Chiellini**, of Central Falls, to 63 months in prison for his role in the same robberies plus a third one.

In September, Capaldi pleaded guilty to conspiracy and two counts of bank robbery. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey said the government could prove that, on February 2, Capaldi drove a get-away vehicle after Chiellini, using a threatening note, robbed a teller of \$2,759 at Bank RI on South Broadway, East Providence. On February 5, the robbers reversed roles when Capaldi robbed a teller of \$1,930 at Coastway Credit Union on Reservoir Avenue in Cranston while Chiellini waited nearby in a get-away vehicle, a white Jeep Cherokee.

Cranston Police arrested the two robbers later that day as they were getting into the get-away vehicle at a motel. The Jeep's passenger side door was stained with red dye that had exploded from a dye pack that had been placed with the robbery loot. Police had earlier recovered a package of dye-stained money on a street near the credit union.

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Cranston Police, East Providence Police, and The Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the robberies. Assistant U.S. Attorney Leavey prosecuted them as part of Project Bank Safe, a federal initiative against bank robberies in which notes are used.

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